

Response to HB 5606

Presented by:

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Secretary/Treasurer of the Macomb County School Board Association**

Representative Palmer and esteemed members of the Michigan House Education Committee, thank you for allowing me the time to speak with you today about HB 5606.

I agree that we need consistent standards for every high school student in Michigan. As an elected official I have an obligation to every constituent in our district to make certain that all of our students meet the standards and requirements mandated by the State of Michigan. The Center Line Board of Education specifically has hired a Superintendent who has a Curriculum background both in education and experience to make certain that all courses offered to our students have high expectations and meet the approved standards and benchmarks set forth in the state approved curriculum. Therefore, I have a grave concern when I read in HB 5606 (Section B – subsection 3 on page 5) the provision that indicates three people will have the final approval for courses that must be developed including and excluding certain content as outlined in subsection A – section vii and section x and xi on page 4). This is clearly micromanaging the development of curriculum. That, ladies and gentleman of the committee, is the job of our Curriculum Directors and Superintendents at the local level. Yes, you approve the standards, the benchmarks and the Grade Level Content Expectations. But, the courses must be developed at the level where those courses will be implemented for the students in the district. As a member of the Board of Education in Center Line, I assure you I will ask the questions and review the courses to make certain every student is held to the standards and requirements approved by the legislature, the State Board of Education, and the Governor. We hold students in Center Line to rigorous expectations of high achievement. That is why I was elected by the constituents in my community. Let me do my job – the sections of the bill that I have mentioned are not appropriate and I urge you to delete those sections before sending this bill out of committee.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of my testimony.